

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2384

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONFERENCE

REF: ROME 1837

1. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL, SERGIO SEGRE, CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI), CONFIRMED THAT AN "EDITORIAL GROUP" WOULD BEGIN DRAFTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONFERENCE IN BERLIN ON FEBRUARY 17. HE SAID THAT APPROXIMATELY 15 PARTIES WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THE DRAFTING SESSIONS WITH THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION ATTENDING FOR THE PCI. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
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DECISIONS REACHED AT THE BUDAPEST PREPARATORY CONFERENCE,

ALL THE ACTIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP MUST BE APPROVED BY A MORE SENIOR BODY REPRESENTING ALL THE PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PREPARATORY WORK.

2. WITH REFERENCE TO THE SEMINARS MENTIONED IN REFTTEL, SEGRE SAID THAT THE ONE ON SOCIALISM AND THE THIRD WORLD WOULD BE HELD IN BELGRADE BEGINNING ABOUT APRIL 10. IN ADDITION TO EUROPEAN COMMUNIST, SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, INVITATIONS HAVE ALSO BEEN SENT TO POLITICAL FORCES IN SOME NON-EUROPEAN MEDITERRANEAN STATES INCLUDING ALGERIA. A SECOND CONFERENCE ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS WILL BE HELD IN ROME BEGINNING ABOUT APRIL 17.

3. SEGRE NOW ANTICIPATES FURTHER SLIPPAGE IN THE TIMING OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST CONFERENCE FOR WHICH THERE WILL BE A FINAL PREPARATORY MEETING JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE ACTUAL CONFERENCE. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS DEVELOPMENT TO THE SLOW RATE OF PROGRESS AT CSCE AND TO THE INSISTENCE OF THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY THAT THE CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS HAVE A HEAVY IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION, A DEVELOPMENT TO WHICH MANY PARTIES, INCLUDING PCI, CANNOT GIVE THEIR CONCURRENCE. SEGRE NOTED THAT THE FRENCH HAD PURSUED THIS LINE AT THE RECENT BUDAPEST PREPARATORY MEETING BUT HAD FOUND THEMSELVES ISOLATED. NEVERTHELESS THEY CONTINUE TO INSIST ON THIS COURSE PRIMARILY FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS. AS PROOF THAT EVEN THE SOVIETS DISAPPROVE OF THE FRENCH LINE, SEGRE POINTED TO THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS DELETED FROM THEIR PUBLIC COVERAGE OF THE SPEECH OF THE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE AT BUDAPEST THE PORTION DEVOTED TO INTERNAL FRENCH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. VOLPE

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